

AUG 23 1964

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CIA Vietnam Paper Branded Unofficial

State Department Spokesman Says Document
Has No Relation To U.S. Policies

By HOWARD NORTON
[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Aug. 24—A paper on Vietnam, written by a member of the Central Intelligence Agency's Board of Estimates, was branded by the State Department today as having no relation to official policy.

Written by Willard Matthias, the paper expresses serious doubts about the possibility of defeating the Communist forces in Vietnam. It states that it may become necessary to arrange "some kind of negotiated settlement, based upon neutralization."

Robert McCloskey, an official spokesman of the State Department, said studies of this kind are frequently written within the Government but indicated he could not explain how the document came to be published.

Not Policy Statement

"Such a paper is not, nor does it purport to be, a statement on policy on any of the subjects which it discusses," he said.

"I would strongly emphasize," he said, "that the paper was not cleared, discussed nor read by the United States Intelligence Board, by the Vietnam task force, nor by any principal officers of the Department of State or Defense."

The paper was first made public

by a Republican-oriented American newspaper (the Chicago Tribune) last week.

In comment on the CIA paper, the newspaper said it had been offered previously to a magazine for publication.

Political Effect A Factor

There were reports that Administration advisers were concerned over the possible political aspects of the paper, which appeared to support recent Republican charges that the Administration policy toward Vietnam was to regard it as a "no-win" war, after the character of the Korean War.

The State Department spokesman was asked to outline what the United States policy toward a negotiated settlement in Vietnam might be, since the CIA paper was to be branded as not a policy statement.

Reporters were referred to President Johnson's statement early this month at the time he asked for, and received, a strong congressional resolution of support for any military action he might regard as necessary in Southeast Asia.

The President's request—which was granted by Congress—was

for authority to take "all necessary action to protect our armed forces and to assist nations covered by the SEATO treaty."

Mr. Johnson assured Congress that if given this authority he would, nevertheless, continue to explore any avenues of political solution that would effectively guarantee the removal of Communist subversion and the preservation of the independence of the nations of the area.

The State Department spokesman warned newsmen specifically against relating this latter part of the President's statement to the CIA paper's comments on Vietnam which made no mention of guarantees against Communist subversion.

The same State Department spokesman declined to speculate on whether the new student riots in Vietnam were Communist-inspired.